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HAHN, DONALD E. 1980. *Leptotyphlops maximus.*

Leptotyphlops maximus Loveridge

Leptotyphlops maximus Loveridge, 1932:151. Type-locality, "between 4,000 and 6,000 feet at Chilpancingo, State of Guerrero, Mexico." Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology 33604, adult male, collected by W. W. Brown between January and June 1932 (not examined by author).

• CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

• DIAGNOSIS. *Leptotyphlops maximus* can be distinguished from other North and Middle American species by the presence of the following characteristics: 12 rows of scales around the tail; lack of dorsal longitudinal light lines; presence of supraoculars, which are about the same size as the frontal and prefrontal.

• DEFINITION. This is one of the largest species of *Leptotyphlops*, the known variation in total length (8 specimens) ranging from 126 to 305 mm. Supraoculars are present, and are approximately the same size as the frontal and prefrontal; one supralabial is anterior to the ocular; parietals are in contact with posterior supralabials. Middorsal scale counts range from 204–235 (mean 219.6). Subcaudals range from 13–16 (mean 14.3). Adult total body length/diameter of midbody averages 45. Total length/tail length averages 19. The seven median dorsal scale rows are pigmented dark brown to orange; ventral coloration tan to cream, with a very sharp line of demarcation between dorsal and ventral coloration.

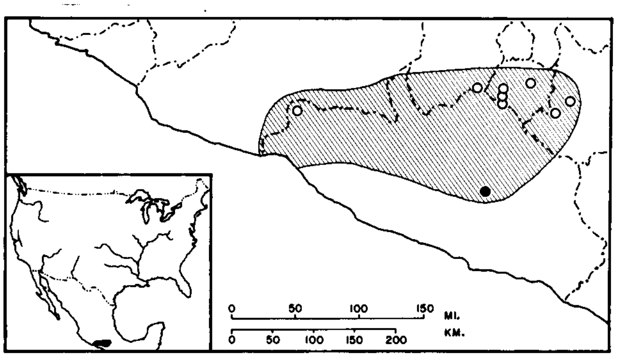
• DESCRIPTIONS. The original description is fair. Taylor (1939) supplemented the original description. The best description of this species is by Klauber (1940).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Taylor (1939) figured dorsal and lateral views of the head scalation. List (1966) figured the hyobranchia, pelvic girdle, and dorsal, lateral and ventral views of the skull.

• DISTRIBUTION. Known from the Rio Balsas Basin in Guerrero, Morelos, Mexico, and Puebla, up to 6100 feet (1860 m). Klauber (1940) mapped the known distribution. Dixon et al. (1962) provided the only habitat note in the literature, having found a specimen in broadleaf forest.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Loveridge (1932), Taylor (1939), Klauber (1940), and Duellman (1956) made taxonomic comparisons with other species in the genus. Davis and Smith (1953), Webb and Fugler (1957), Dixon et al. (1962), Smith and Taylor (1945), and Hall (1951) provided locality records. List (1966) described the skeleton. Haas (1962, 1973) described the mandibular musculature. The hyoid and its musculature was reported on by Langebartel (1953).



MAP. Solid circle marks the type-locality; open circles indicate other localities. Shading covers the estimated range in the Rio Balsas Basin.

• ETYMOLOGY. The Latin *maximus* means "maximum" in reference to the size of the species.

COMMENT

Klauber (1940) commented on a specimen from Balsas, Guerrero in which the nasals are in contact on the middorsal line, and suggested that "if additional specimens from northwestern Guerrero show consistency in this character, subspecific differentiation will be warranted." Smith (1939) described the same specimen. Davis and Smith (1953) reported a second specimen with the nasals in contact from the opposite end of the range of this species, indicating this character is probably an occasional variant.

This species is a member of the *dulcis* group, with *L. dulcis* probably its closest relative.

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DONALD E. HAHN, MARCUS J. LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA 86326.

Primary editor for this account, Larry David Wilson.